

centers in Las Vegas with over 300 employees; I congratulate Expedia.com as one of the world's leading online travel providers with 25 million visitors to its site monthly and for its efforts to broaden this exciting, valuable industry.

Congress should encourage American workers to benefit from their hard work by taking time to travel and creating memories that will last a lifetime. It is for these reasons that I take great pleasure in asking my colleagues to join me in supporting the goals and ideas of a National Plan Your Vacation Day.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MARCUS MORABITO

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of my constituents, Mr. Marcus Morabito of Littleton, CO. Mr. Morabito has been accepted to the People to People World Leadership Forum here in our Nation's Capitol. This year marks the 50th anniversary of the People to People program founded by President Eisenhower in 1956.

Mr. Morabito has displayed academic excellence, community involvement and leadership potential. All students chosen for the program have been identified and nominated by educators.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to join in paying tribute to Marcus Morabito, and wish him the best in all his future endeavors.

THE LEGION OF DOOM

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, this week Seven-Eleven stores are telling CITGO to hit the road. Now, Hugo Chavez has no one to thank but himself.

CITGO is owned by his Venezuelan government and after last week, when Chavez called President Bush the devil and an alcoholic then railed on capitalism, Seven-Eleven revealed it was choosing to use American gasoline distributors. It's a good lesson in that thing we like to call capitalism.

Whether Seven-Eleven's decision is business or political, I am happy that they made it. Americans are sick and tired of foreign regimes, their tirades, and their threats at the U.N. and around the world.

President Bush, long ago, targeted his Axis of Evil. An axis broken when U.S. soldiers pulled Saddam Hussein out of his hole in the ground, deep in Iraq. However, these recent fist banging rants have made it all too clear that we face more than just 3 enemies around the world. We are facing an entire "Legion of Doom."

Their caustic club is headed by the forked tongue Chavez. He's a man who only recently had his most memorable international tantrum,

filled with slurs, lies and outbursts about the U.S.

The former leader of the Legion of Doom, Fidel Castro, has health problems as severe as his country's economic issues. After decades of bad policies, he still manages to throw stones at the U.S. while his people are starving on Cuban streets. Now he's recruited Chavez to finish his dirty work.

The legion under Chavez's leadership counts among its members: Mahmoud Ahmadinejad of Iran, Kim Jong Il of North Korea, and their instigating intern, the drug smuggling Evo Morales of Bolivia. He's the world leader who brought a coca leaf to the U.N. to extol the virtues of the cocaine plant and run down the U.S. for our anti-drug policies. Perhaps his drug smuggling act was all in the hope that his stunts will someday allow him to be a big boy member of the legion.

These new younger Legion of Doom members have nuclear ambitions on their mind. Take for instance Kim Jong Il of North Korea. After feuding for years over nuclear power to supposedly improve the lives of his people, he finally just decided to take matters into his own hands. He got down to the nuclear business he really wanted—making missiles. Apparently that will help his ailing countrymen more than hot water or electricity.

Just to prove he'd been diligently developing Missiles, he waited until July 4th of this year to test their range. They came up short, instead of flying high they fell into the Sea of Japan. No one is sure if he was attempting to threaten the U.S., Japan or South Korea, or just show how many missiles he has.

That series of missile launches then prompted another member of the Legion of doom to test the boundaries too. Now Iran's President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad is demanding the same so-called civil nuclear program. He insists he is not trying to make nuclear bombs, but nuclear power.

Just like Kim Jong Il, no one believes him. His lack of credibility could be due in part to the way he's freely discussed his wish to wipe Israel off the face of the planet and his denial that the holocaust ever happened. This is the same man who is accused of holding U.S. soldiers hostage after taking over the U.S. Embassy in Tehran in 1979. He's also accused of supplying Iraq with the IEDs that kill American soldiers everyday.

As if all of that wasn't enough, he also ensures his country gives tens of millions of dollars a year to Hezbollah. That's the terrorist group that killed more Americans than any other before 9/11. Other signs of his intentions came from a recent interview where Iran's leader didn't deny having suicide bombers ready to strike the U.S. and Britain.

His speech last week was that of a terrorist. That's what he and fellow members of the Legion of Doom are all about. They are committed to terrorizing those who want to be free, those who want democracy and those who wish to crush the very tyranny these men rely on.

Make no mistake, when we are fighting a war on terror, we're fighting members of the Legion of Doom. That is just the way it is.

A TOTAL FORCE GI BILL FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, today I urge my colleagues' support of legislation that has been introduced to enhance, improve and modernize veterans' education and training programs. Specifically, I am proud to be an original co-sponsor of H.R. 6250, a bill introduced by Dr. VIC SNYDER of Arkansas, a member of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee.

Nearly 62 years have passed since congressional enactment of the "Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944", commonly known as the "GI Bill of Rights", by all accounts a landmark legislative accomplishment. Last year marked the 20th anniversary of the implementation of the "Montgomery GI Bill" (MGIB), another critically important legislative measure which has been credited for the creation of the middle class in America.

Now, the time has come to develop a "Total Force GI Bill for the 21st Century." For education and training benefits to remain a relevant recruitment, retention and readjustment tool, we must ensure that VA's education and training programs reflect the current manner in which individuals earn and learn in today's competitive marketplace.

A "Total Force GI Bill" must also reflect today's military force structure. Clearly, we all recognize the total force policy of our military includes increased activation of the National Guard and Reserve forces. Like no other time in our history have citizen-soldiers sacrificed so much and served with such distinction as they currently do in Iraq and Afghanistan. Since September 11, 2001, nearly 500,000 National Guard and Reservists have been activated, and approximately 40 percent of the troops currently serving in Iraq and Afghanistan are citizen-soldiers. These patriots have earned and deserve high quality education and training benefits, to be used even after they separate from military service. The "Total Force GI Bill" proposal would organize all MGIB programs within a single area of Federal law and under the jurisdiction of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). It would allow members of the National Guard and Reserves to use their education benefits after they separate from military service, for up to a period of 10 years.

I want to work in a bipartisan fashion to improve and modernize the MGIB so that it better reflects current trends in education and vocational training programs. The VA's Advisory Committee on Education and the Partnership for Veterans Education—a group made up of traditional veterans and military service organizations, as well as higher education advocates, all have endorsed the provisions of H.R. 6250. I believe this legislative proposal deserves careful consideration, and I pledge to work to pass the funding needed to support these improvements.